AVON WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY
July 14, 2016
Selectmen's Chambers, 5:30 p.m.
Town of Avon

I. CALL TO ORDER
The Avon Water Pollution Control Authority was called to order at 5:30 pm by Mr. Johansen.

AWPCA
Present: Eric Johansen, Chairman
Terry Ryan, Vice Chairman
Tom Armstrong
Chris Roy
Lawrence Baril, Town Engineer

II. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING – June 9, 2016

MOTION: Mr. Johansen inquired whether anyone had any comments of the June 9, 2016 minutes. Mr. Armstrong noted two corrections – one on page 2 to clarify Mr. Ryan's comments regarding the cost of Engineering's time and the second correction on page 3 under Other Business clarifying the report received for Paperchase is an informational report. Mr. Johansen made a motion for approval of the June 9, 2016 minutes, as amended. The motion, seconded by Mr. Armstrong, received unanimous approval.

III. COMMUNICATION FROM THE AUDIENCE – There were two people in the audience attending for the agenda item number 2015 - 8. Mr. Johansen noted their agenda item of interest will appear shortly.

IV. NEW BUSINESS – None

V. OLD BUSINESS -

2015 – 8 Potential Sanitary Sewer Service for School Street
Mr. Baril provided background information on the project noting the sewer facilities plan showed School Street to be part of a larger extension of sewers down School Street to New Road and then north on New Road to Smith. Subsequently, after looking at the topography and seeing obvious signs of ledge, the route to go through New Road would have to be very deep. Because of the physical constraints, the obvious presence of ledge, gravity sewers are not economically feasible. In addition, there are homes that are close to the street with the likelihood for blasting. The Town looked at servicing School Street with low pressure sewers. The Town met with the representative from Eone pump system and gave a preliminary design that is not ready to go out to bid as it's missing items such as existing topography and specs. The Town is at an 80 % design ready to create a bid package for this project. The next step should be a public hearing with the AWPCA's endorsement to do the project or not. Mr. Baril emphasized the proposed project is for low pressure system with a connection at the manhole at the intersection of Volovski and School Streets. The whole section south of the intersection of School Street was expected to be done with low pressure sewers. Mr. Baril provided an overview of the situation at 60 School Street noting the Town was approached by the homeowners to discuss options to connect to the Town's sewer. There were buyers for the home but two sales were lost based on the septic system. Connecting to the Volovski manhole from their home with a 2-inch plastic line was an option discussed. The cost differential was negligible based on Mr. Baril's conversation with the consultant, Mr. Kevin Clark. Mr. Mauro

of 60 School Street noted the project cost was negligible from going to a 1¼ inch line to a 2 inch line. Mr. Mauro noted the whole project is very expensive, approximately $50,000. Ms. Mauro noted both sides of the streets were surveyed which doubled the surveying costs. Mr. Baril noted one option to get them to sell their house quickly, if the homeowners install a 2-inch plastic line, the Town of Avon could extend the 2-inch line when the Town extends sewers in the School Street neighborhood. Ms. Mauro responded to Mr. Baril's question noting they have taken their home off the market and will wait until the Town of Avon does something about sewers and then we will connect to it. We are managing two houses now. Ms. Mauro responded to Mr. Armstrong's question that although she would like her home sold as soon as possible, the plan discussed earlier is too expensive. We are going to wait until the Town puts the sewer in and we will connect to that. Mr. Baril noted another option discussed was having the homeowners put in the line from their home up to Volovski and including the crossing to the neighbors across the street which effectively is a developer installing an extension of sewers which would allow them to have a payback situation. Ms. Mauro noted she was not sure if anyone would even connect and we only have 10 years for them to do it. If everyone has good septic systems, then we put in the sewer for Avon. It didn't sound like a payback to us. Mr. Johansen noted that another issue is if we go out to bid, we are subject to a public hearing, and the possibility of everyone else on the street not wanting this to go through and making the decision do we go against everyone on the street. Ms. Mauro said what they are concerned about is the wetlands behind our house. We don't want to pollute. We're at a rock and a hard spot right now. Mr. Baril mentioned if the Town can go out to bid, a public information session in September is a possibility. The Town will need to know the costs. A spring construction is a possibility. I am not inclined to allow construction to go into December. Town Council approval is needed. Mr. Armstrong (without giving legal advice) noted to the homeowners they should talk to their attorney and broker to discuss costs. Discussion continued noting that would be hard to do as the cost is unknown since the project has not gone out to bid.

Ms. Mauro replied to Mr. Ryan's question that their system is working fine, although it's at the end of its life. Mr. Mauro noted the Health District mentioned they cannot put a septic system in. They want us to put a sewer in. Ms. Mauro added they sent us to Mr. Baril when I went to talk to them about putting in a new septic system. They want us to use sewers if we could. Mr. Baril inquired whether they received only one quote for the actual construction. Mr. Mauro replied they received one budget figure from Suburban Sanitation. That's not putting out to bid. It's a budget figure. I spoke to Kevin Clark and he seems to be comfortable with the figure given to us. Mr. Mauro confirmed Mr. Baril's question that he does have a design from Kevin Clark. Discussion continued regarding fixed costs such as the $2,500 connection fee and the $6,000 fee already paid for the design. One variable cost is the construction cost. Mr. Mauro noted that if they hit ledge, the costs will increase.

Mr. Baril noted that because of the process that's followed at the Town takes time, it's entirely possible the project won't be constructed this fall. If the project moves forward, now you're looking at a spring-time construction. Mr. Armstrong presented a potential option for the homeowners to place an amount in escrow. The possibility of hitting ledge was discussed noting with typical gravity systems one has to go deeper than 4 feet of ground. Mr. Baril noted borings have not been done yet. Mr. Baril confirmed that everyone who benefits by the sewer extension will pay a proportionate share of the cost.

Discussion included next steps such as the homeowners going out to bid and Mr. Johansen noted the investigation such as pricing will continue and a public information meeting will be scheduled as soon as we can.

2016 – 4 Potential Sewer Connection Charge Increase

Mr. Johansen noted he likes Mr. Armstrong's idea of a two-tier study. We have a limited opportunity to get revenue from connection charges. After that it will just be the user fee. Mr. Armstrong noted possible plans such as having a different connection fee for apartments and a cost of living increase. Mr. Johansen's overall concern is having a justification for increasing the fees. Mr. Baril commented that deriving that, one could compile a 10 year plan which would include the capital improvement program and the cost to carry the money (assessments). Mr. Johansen said it's something we should have. Mr. Armstrong suggested the Town contact Farmington and find out how they arrived at their charges. Mr. Baril mentioned he could contact another town but Farmington wouldn't be an appropriate town to contact because they have a different situation. They have many pump stations and a full treatment plant. Mr. Baril noted he will reach out to area towns to determine how they justify their fees. Mr. Johansen noted the emergency fund and inquired what a reasonable amount is to have on reserve. Mr. Ryan mentioned proper justification is needed before supporting an increase. Mr. Baril noted that he believes that the Town of Farmington has a fixed fee for sewer extension projects. Mr. Johansen reviewed the potential flat fee scenario and noted to continue the discussion.

2016 – 6 Potential Sanitary Sewer Service for portions of Winding Lane and Stony Corners South

Mr. Baril noted the bids that came in were too high. Removing certain items such as surveying work may lower the cost. The specs will be re-prepared and will go out to bid again.

2016 – 8 Potential Sanitary Sewer Service for Paperchase Trail South
Mr. Baril noted discussion with Ms. Northrop regarding granting an easement through her property. Mr. Baril shared the letter he received from Ms. Northrop noting her conditions requested in order to agree to an easement. Mr. Baril requested a response from the AWPCA before moving forward in going out to bid, which includes the easement. Mr. Johansen inquired whether it's possible to go out to bid to receive an amount it would cost to meet Ms. Northrop's requests and use that amount as a basis for negotiation. Mr. Baril noted it's a possibility. Mr. Baril replied to Mr. Armstrong's question that there isn't a possibility to connect through the neighbor's property due to grading issues.

VI PLANNING & ZONING MATTERS – Mr. Baril commented on the Garden Homes project noting that the Developer's route now plans to go straight to Simsbury.

VII COMMUNICATION FROM STAFF – None

VIII COMMUNICATION FROM MEMBERS – Mr. Baril replied to Mr. Ryan's question regarding communication with the Farmington Valley Health District noting there is a plan in place whereby the Engineering Department will receive applications the FVHD receives from Town of Avon homeowners. These are applications prepared before any decisions have been made. The applications will be entered in the Engineering's database. The Engineering Department also plans to receive repair strategies before the repairs are made. Mr. Armstrong noted that while reviewing the Plan of Conservation, the Town of Avon is at 85% capacity to the Town of Farmington. Mr. Baril acknowledged this comment and mentioned the Town has petitioned for an increase in capacity.

IX OTHER BUSINESS – None

X ADJOURNMENT –

MOTION: Mr. Johansen motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 p.m. The motion, seconded by Mr. Armstrong, received unanimous approval.

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Essex, Clerk